

BIRD ET AL. - U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/019,236

## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery comprising:
  - a) an amino acid source,
  - b) a carbohydrate source,
  - c) a lipid source, and
  - d) a fatty acid delivery agent, being a fatty acid covalently bonded to a carrier molecule by a bond hydrolysable in the colon to thereby release the fatty acid, the covalent bonding providing a protective effect to both the carrier and fatty acid from degradation in the stomach or small intestine, said carrier being any one of a starch, a non-starch polysaccharide, or oligosaccharide the fatty acid delivery agent being present in the formulation range of 0.25% w/v through to 5% w/v, and wherein the formulation can be delivered through an enteral feeding tube.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the formulation is capable of being stored for at least 24 hours and not forming a gel viscous solution or precipitate that is not easily resuspended.
5. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the enteral formulation is also an elemental formulation and includes a mineral source and a vitamin source.
6. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the fatty acid is a short chain fatty acid (SCFA).
7. (Currently Amended) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the SCFA is selected from the group consisting of, acetate, propionate,